

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [00011] as follows:

[00011] Yersinia Pestis is the bacterium that causes what is commonly known as the plague, a disease that is contagious and can be fatal if not detected early and treated with appropriate antibiotics. The symptoms of plague “are fever, headache, weakness, and rapidly developing pneumonia with shortness of breath, chest pain, cough, and sometimes bloody or watery sputum. The pneumonia progresses for 2 to 4 days and may cause respiratory failure and shock.” This information can be found at the website for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), internet address www.bt.cdc.gov/documentsapp/FactSheet/Plague/About.asp. It is on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) list of possible bacteria that has potential as a biological warfare weapon. The CDC has developed a list of possible pathogens that may be used as bioterrorism weapons. Yersinia Pestis has been listed in Category A of possible diseases and agents. Those diseases and agents in Category A are considered a high risk to national security because they “can be easily disseminated or transmitted from person to person; result in high mortality rates and have the potential for major public health impact; might cause public panic and social disruption; and require special action for public health preparedness.” This information can be found at the CDC website, the internet address: www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist-category.asp.